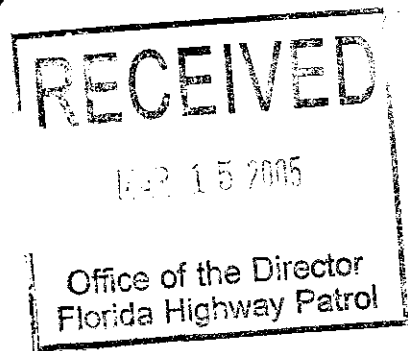


Terry Ingram



February 22, 2005

Captain John M. Roberts, District Commander
Troop - L, Davie District
14190 State Road 84
Davie, FL 33325
954/845-6001

Re: Letter of Commendation

Dear Captain Roberts:

I am writing you this correspondence to express my appreciation and gratitude for the professional conduct exhibited one of your Troopers regarding an incident in which a close friend of my family, 24 year old Elizabeth, was involved in a traffic stop by Trooper Michael Olaciregui, ID# 1067 on or about January 2005. It is my understanding that Trooper Olaciregui is currently under your direct command.

I can assure you I have the ability to recognize leadership qualities in subordinates. This fine Trooper, in my humble experience Captain Roberts, is a credit to your Troop and a direct reflection upon you and the Office which you obviously hold with honor and in high esteem.

It has been my experience that there are a rare few law enforcement officers who can intuit those special occasions in which they are warranted, both morally and even in the strictest legal sense, in expressing discretionary methods in their daily enforcement procedures which result in equal, and as in this case, superior results to both the community and law enforcement. When employed thoughtfully and in an abundance of caution, tempered with an innate "street sense", this reflects extremely favorably to lessen the ever increasing distance between the citizenry and law enforcement agencies. Certainly we would all agree that absent the support from our communities served by the law enforcement we employ, the sensitive and complex process of policing the citizenry would become, as it has in the past, increasingly arduous.

More specifically Captain Roberts, Trooper Olaciregui effected a traffic stop on Elizabeth for violating the lane restriction provided for the exclusive use of two or more occupants in a motor vehicle. Upon further investigation, Trooper Olaciregui found that Elizabeth had suspensions against her Florida Driver's License regarding lack of financial responsibility. Elizabeth deserved

citations for a lane restriction violation, suspended license and, should the Trooper had deemed it prudent, a tow and trip to jail. However, based upon Elizabeth's attitude Trooper Olaciregui took that extra step to exercise a discretion which would both be in keeping with his duties as a law enforcement officer as well as protecting the public. At the behest of Elizabeth, Trooper Olaciregui contacted me telephonically about the incident. As my wife and I are parent figures and friends to Elizabeth, who for all intense and purposes is herself parentless and has been so for most of her adolescence and all of her adult life, we discussed the matter in detail with Trooper Olaciregui. Based upon on the information at his disposal, Trooper Oaciregui elected to employ a special type of tough love. While he expressed his extreme disappointment and admonished Elizabeth with a severe tongue lashing, he subsequently released her at the scene. No citations were written.

Since then Elizabeth has remedied her license with no financial help from me and my wife, exhibited a decided attitude adjustment from one of literally holding law enforcement in complete and utter disdain, to a new understanding and respect for such authority. As a direct result of Trooper Oaciregui's intervention, basically exacting a certain punishment while simultaneously withholding adjudication, Elizabeth is a better person. Astoundingly, Elizabeth now comes to the defense of law enforcement in discussions with her peers, as opposed to previously doing the converse. Was the public safety served? The law as well? Absolutely unequivocally! However, Trooper Oaciregui's actions resulted in an additional side effect rarely called to the attention of his superiors or the public... respect, admiration, and in this case he did what was right and what was needed, even though it would have been easier to write and cite. The story does not end here, Trooper Oaciregui has followed up his warning to Elizabeth by contacting me to learn her progress. Now that is undaunted, selfless, thankless (normally) law enforcement. This kind of seed planting of respect and admiration have the extreme possibility of producing an upheaval in our communities equivalent to the swelling pride we feel in our Soldiers across the seas protecting our Nation. Did Trooper Oaciregui save a life from a burning building or a watery grave? Perhaps not this time... but I believe Troopers like Michael Oaciregui are the back bone of law enforcement and that he acted in the highest tradition of the Florida Highway Patrol. For what my vote is worth, I hereby nominate Trooper Oaciregui for Officer of the year.

I respectfully request that you make this letter a permanent part of Trooper Olaciregui's personnel file and if you deem prudent, I recommend him for personal and public commendation. Moreover, I am furnishing a copy of this correspondence to Colonel Christopher A. Knight, Director, Major Miguel A. Guzman, Commander Troop L, The Honorable Jeb Bush, Governor of the State of Florida. Furthermore, I hereby make similar recommendations for commendation to you Sir, and your fine department by Governor Bush.

Yours truly,

Terry Ingram